of the IPC should be shared by the member countries also. It was also decided to convene the seminar on "Towards a More Vibrant Pepper Economy" in 1993.

20th Session of the IPC held at Madras, India during August, 1992

1. Decided to conduct a study on a scheme to stabilise pepper prices with expert assistance from an appropriate inter-national agencies.

2. Session endorsed the amendment to the agreement establishing pepper community and its rules of procedure with regard to Associate Membership.

21st Session of the IPC held at Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia during June, 1993

1. Holding the international seminar "Towards a More Vibrant Pepper Economy" in Thailand during 1994.

2. Formulated criteria for eligibility of the Associate Membership of the IPC.

Procurement and Export of Iron Ore.

4306. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of iron ore procured from Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh for export, during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp decline in the procurement and export of iron ore from these States during these years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the procurement and export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The quantity of iron ore procured from Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years is given below :—

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Year	Bihar	Orissa	Madhya Pradesh
1	2	3	4
1991-92	3.74	19.67	52.44
1992-93	2.25	10.87	43.18
1993-94 (P) .	3.22	11.21	43.23

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The decline in procurement and exports of iron ore from Orissa and Bihar sector has been due to lesser intake by Japanese Steel Mills owing to continuing recession in steel industry, infrastructural constraints at Paradip Port restricting accommodation of large size vessels and consistent high level of stocks held by MMTC at their loading stations and at Paradip Port.

Fall in procurement and export of iron ore from Madhya Pradesh has primarily been due to lesser surplus availability of Bailadila jumps for exports on accounts of pressing domestic demand by Vizag Steel Plant and sponge & pig iron producers.

(d) The following steps have been taken to increase procurement as well as exports :

(i) New markets have been identified to make up for the shortfall in exports to Japan.

(ii) To suit market demand, product range was enlarged. Paradip Port is now exporting calibrated lumps to Pakistan and Malaysia and fines to China.

(iii) Possibilities are being explored to promote setting up of sizing plants in Orissa-Bihar Sector to match customer's demand for calibrated lumps and fines for sinter making.

(iv) With a view to encourage domestic consumption of iron ore, MMTC is also contemplating setting up an iron and steel complex in Orissa as a Joint venture.

आयातित और निर्यात की गई वस्तुओं के वस्तु-वार मूल्य

4307. श्री राघवजी : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1993-94 के दौरान आयातित और निर्यात किए गये खाद्यान्नों, दालों, तेल और चीनी का वस्तु-वार मूल्य क्या है ;

(ख) उपरोक्त प्रत्येक वस्तु पर सभी खर्चों सहित भारत में आयात करने पर प्रति मीटरी कितनी लागत आई ; और